

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 16, 2000

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 4, 2000

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 27, 2000

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 1634**

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**Introduced by Senator Bowen**

February 22, 2000

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An act to add Article 7 (commencing with Section 33390) to Chapter 3 of Part 20 of the Education Code, relating to Internet access.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1634, as amended, Bowen. Internet access centers.

Existing law establishes the State Department of Education and sets forth its powers and duties, including, but not limited to, the establishment of prescribed educational programs and centers.

This bill would require the State Department of Education to establish a program for the creation of Internet access centers at sites located throughout the state. The centers would be established at public schools, public libraries, community centers, other government buildings, or other buildings owned or leased by nonprofit organizations and would provide opportunities for the general public to become knowledgeable in the use of computers and to provide access to computers, computer programs, and the Internet.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(a) The ability to use a computer and the Internet are becoming critical skills necessary for full participation in modern society.

(b) The disparate access to computers and the Internet is known as the “digital divide” and is related to an individual’s income, ethnicity, and geographic location. The digital divide creates disadvantages for persons who are denied access, thus, precluding them from enjoying an equal opportunity to educate themselves, avail themselves of economic opportunities, participate in electronic commerce, and obtain access to critical information.

(c) A cost-effective way of helping to bridge the digital divide is to provide educational and training opportunities for pupils, students, and the general public, and to provide access to the Internet through the extended use of facilities located at schools, libraries and other public access computer centers.

(d) AmeriCorps was created by the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993, (P.L. 103-82) and has provided more than 100,000 volunteers for national public service.

SEC. 2. Article 7 (commencing with Section 33390) is added to Chapter 3 of Part 20 of the Education Code, to read:

Article 7. Internet Access Centers

33390. (a) The State Department of Education shall establish a program for the creation of Internet access centers throughout the state. These centers may be established and operated by nonprofit organizations—~~or~~, state or local governments, *or schools districts*. The program shall ensure that the centers are located in diverse areas of the state, including, but not limited to urban, rural, and low-income areas.

(b) The Internet access centers may be established at public schools, public libraries, community centers, other government buildings, or other buildings owned or leased by nonprofit organizations if this use is agreed to by the agency, company, or organization having control over the building.

(c) The principal purpose of the Internet access centers is to provide opportunities for the general public to become knowledgeable in the use of computers and to provide access to computers, computer programs, and the Internet.

(d) The program established pursuant to this article shall establish preferences for the following:

(1) Internet access centers with substantial local and private sector support.

(2) Internet access centers located in areas with poor computer access, such as rural and low income areas.

(e) The program established pursuant to this article may provide grants for the establishment and operation of the Internet access centers. The grants may be used to provide stipends for volunteers, including Americorps ~~volunteers~~ members, as well as for any other lawful purpose. The grant amount for any Internet access center may not exceed twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) per year.

(f) *Internet access centers shall hire staff and recruit volunteers with appropriate levels of computer knowledge and expertise.*

(g) *Any Internet access center operated on a public school campus shall develop a plan, approved by the governing board of the school district, which ensures that all school safety issues that result from providing the general public with access to the school campus have been addressed by the center.*